



## RESPONSES TO INFORMATION REQUESTS (RIRs)

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23 December 2004

### IRN43259.E

Iran: The quality of justice provided by Iranian courts in connection with commercial/corporate/economic crime according to the international legal and business community (January 2003 - December 2004)  
Research Directorate, Immigration and Refugee Board, Ottawa

Information on the opinion of the international legal and business community on the quality of justice provided by Iranian courts in connection with commercial/corporate/economic crime could not be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate. However, the following information may be relevant.

The Iranian jurisdictions responsible for trying individuals accused of economic crimes and official corruption, among other things, are the Islamic Revolutionary Courts (*Country Reports 2003* 25 Feb. 2004, Sec. 1.e.). According to *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2003*,

Trials in the Revolutionary Courts ... were notorious for their disregard of international standards of fairness. Revolutionary Court judges acted as both prosecutor and judge in the same case, and judges were chosen in part based on their ideological commitment to the system. Pretrial detention often was prolonged and defendants lacked access to attorneys. Indictments often lacked clarity and included undefined offenses such as "anti-revolutionary behavior," "moral corruption," and "siding with global arrogance." Defendants did not have the right to confront their accusers. Secret or summary trials of 5 minutes duration occurred. Others were show trials that were intended merely to highlight a coerced public confession (ibid.).

This Response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research Directorate within time constraints. This Response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim for refugee protection. Please find below the list of additional sources consulted in researching this Information Request.

#### Reference

*Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2003*. 25 February 2004. United States Department of State. Washington, DC. "Iran."  
<<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2003/27927.htm>> [Accessed 22 Dec. 2004]

Additional Sources Consulted

**Internet sites, including:** Al Bawaba, Amnesty International (AI), BBC, *Freedom in the World 2004*, European Country of Origin Information Network (ECOI), Human Rights Watch (HRW), Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN), Iran Expert, Iran Press Service, World News Connection (WNC).

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